

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Amendments shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) or underlining (for added matter).

1. (Presently amended): ~~Use of a~~ A composition as a ~~sole component~~ for attaching two surfaces to each other or for coating a surface, ~~said composition~~ consisting of:  
an acidic aqueous solution of a bioadhesive polyphenolic protein derived from a byssus-forming mussel; which protein comprises 30 – 300 amino acids and ~~that~~ consists essentially of tandemly linked peptide repeats comprising 3 – 15 amino acid residues, wherein  
at least 3 % ~~and preferably 6 – 30 %~~ of the amino acid residues of said bioadhesive polyphenolic protein are ~~DOPA~~, L-3,4-dihydroxyphenylalanine; ~~where~~  
the pH of said acidic solution is 4 or less; ~~;~~ and ~~wherein~~  
the concentration said bioadhesive polyphenolic protein is 10-250 mg/ml.
2. (Presently amended): ~~Use~~ A composition according to claim 1, wherein the pH of the acidic solution is 3 or less.
3. (Presently amended): ~~Use~~ A composition according to claim 1, wherein the pH of the acidic solution is 2.5 or less.
4. (Presently amended): ~~Use of a~~ A composition according to claim 1 ~~1-3~~, wherein the acidic solution comprises an organic acid.
5. (Presently amended): ~~Use of a~~ A composition according to claim 1 ~~1-3~~, wherein the acidic solution comprises an inorganic acid.

6. (Presently amended): ~~Use of a~~ A composition according to claim 1 ~~1-4~~, wherein the acidic solution comprises an acid chosen from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of citric acid, acetic acid, and ascorbic acid.
7. (Presently amended): ~~Use of a~~ A composition according to claim 1 ~~1-6~~, wherein the concentration of the bioadhesive polyphenolic protein is in the range of 10-150 mg/ml.
8. (Presently amended): ~~Use of a~~ A composition according to claim 1 ~~1-7~~, wherein at least one of the surfaces to be attached or the surface to be coated is a biological surface.
9. (Presently amended): Use of a composition according to claim 1 ~~1-7~~, wherein at least one of the surfaces to be attached or the surface to be coated is a non-biological surface.
10. (New): A composition according to claim 1, wherein 6 - 30% of the amino acid residues of said bioadhesive polyphenolic protein are L-3,4-dihydroxyphenylalanine.